

2007

Cumberland County

Environmental Health Assessment

And

Improvement Plan

Prepared: October 2006

The Plan:

The Cumberland County Health Department (CCHD) is an established health department and also an established Board of Health pursuant the authority of NJSA 26:3A et seq. CCHD is the certified local health agency for the provision of environmental health services delegated by the County Environmental Health Act (CEHA) and the Environmental Health Standards of Administrative Procedure; NJAC 7:1H – 2.1 et seq.

CCHD has entered into a certified inter-local service agreement with the City of Vineland for the provision of Hazardous Materials Emergency Response service throughout the County of Cumberland.

CCHD has entered into a certified subcontractor agreement with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority (CCIA) for the provisions of Solid Waste Enforcement throughout the County of Cumberland.

This plan incorporates the goals envisioned by CCHD and defines health concerns related to local environmental issues. CCHD outlines a plan to attain these goals and address environmental concerns.

Community Background:

Bordering the Delaware Bay in the southern extremity of New Jersey, Cumberland County is comprised of 501.7 square miles and has a population of 146,438 people. There are 14 municipalities, three of which are considered to be urban areas. The urban areas, Bridgeton, Millville and Vineland contain 72.3% of the county's population. The remaining areas of the County are rural. Fifteen percent of the County's area is considered wetlands and 37% falls under the provisions of the New Jersey Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA).

Industries in Cumberland County consist primarily of agriculture, aquaculture (oyster, crab), food processing, textiles and sand and gravel mining.

Goals and Activities:

Cumberland County's Environmental Assessment and Improvement Plan places local environmental concerns within the context of the program goals set forth by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Cumberland County Health Department will respond to theses goals pursuant the authority delegated to CCHD through the NJDEP and CEHA.

Clean Air

The air throughout the County will be healthful to breathe, and air pollutants will not damage our forests, land and water bodies.

Local Environmental Issues:

Complaints from citizens concerning strong odors emanating from Mid Atlantic Recycling Technologies (MART) continue on a less frequent basis. These complaints have been verified on several occasions. CCHD has worked with NJDEP on these complaints which have resulted in Administrative Penalty Assessments. Cumberland County Health Department will continue to respond to citizen complaints and work with NJDEP and MART officials in an effort to resolve these issues.

CCHD inspectors have investigated several odor complaints from other sources as well. In some cases penalty assessments have been issued. We are working with the businesses involved to attempt to reduce the odor effects to the public.

Vehicle idling emissions are a concern statewide. CCHD will continue to monitor citizen complaints. In areas of concern idling education and enforcement will be initiated. Inspection and enforcement following the NJDEP guidelines will continue. We will outreach to the local police authorities to advise them of idling regulations and enforcement powers.

Activities: Inspect minor and B source air permitted facilities to determine compliance with the State's air pollution control regulations.

Enforcement actions for violations will be initiated as needed.

Conduct inspections at potential facilities that may require air permits as needed.

Conduct odor and emission complaint investigations received from citizens and NJDEP. Implement actions to have the source of the complaints corrected.

Deliverables: Submit all compliance monitoring inspection reports to NJDEP's Minor Source Compliance Investigation Program within 45 days for reports with violations and within 60 days for other reports.

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions and forward all enforcement records according to NJDEP protocols.

Resources: CCHD employs 1 full-time Registered Environmental Health Specialists and 5 inspectors trained in odor investigation. One inspector is trained in minor source inspections.

Vehicles are available to staff for travel to and from inspection sites.
Computers with internet connections are available for all staff.

Clean and Plentiful Water

Cumberland County's rivers, lakes and coastal waters will be fishable, swimmable and support healthy ecosystems. Surface and groundwater will be clean sources of water. Every person will have safe drinking water. Adequate quantities of surface and ground water will be available for all uses.

Local Environmental Issues:

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, CCHD collects weekly surface water samples at 11 sites throughout the County. Seven of these sites are guarded recreational beaches. The remaining sites are used by the public for swimming or wading but are not sponsored beaches. During the 2006 season two of our lakes did not meet bacteriological standards for swimming for a couple weeks during the summer. This resulted in closing the lakes to swimming. This program will be continued in 2007 throughout the recreational bathing season.

CCHDs continued efforts in implementing the Safe Drinking Water Program's Zero Tolerance Policy has shown an increase in the number of Public Non-Community Water Supply Systems that are in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Standards. Several new systems were added into the program in 2005 and in 2006. Many of these were small retail food establishments. By reviewing the bacteriological monitoring of these facilities we are more quickly able to assure that our citizens are dining at facilities with a safe water supply. CCHD has followed up on TMF referrals from NJDEP and will continue to do so in 2007.

As a leading agricultural community Cumberland County has approximately 38 migrant labor camps. CCHD participates with the EPA and NJDEP in the migrant labor camp drinking water monitoring program. This program assures safe drinking water to the transient migrant community.

Continuing our effort to evaluate possible areas of groundwater contamination, the CCHD anticipates ongoing participation in the Underground Storage Tank Program. A co-operative agreement with Salem County Health Department and NJDEP has expanded this program. Routine inspections of facilities with registered USTs will allow environmental officials to monitor tanks for leaking product that has the potential to contaminate drinking water. Enforcement actions will be issued against facilities with violations in accordance with NJDEP protocols.

Safe Drinking Water

Activities: Inspect non-transient PNC systems at least every two years and transient PNC systems at least every four years.

Continue to implement the NJDEP Zero Tolerance Policy for PNC systems found in violation. Periodically review the NJDEP public water database (PWS) to determine if any PNC systems have failed to sample as required. Undertake enforcement action to return violators to compliance. Provide correct updated information on PNC system status to NJDEP

Continue to collect drinking water samples at migrant farm camp wells. Mid season samples will be collected and analyzed for bacteria, nitrate and chlorine residual. If exceedances in drinking water standards are identified, appropriate compliance and enforcement activities will be taken to assure a safe drinking water supply.

Deliverables: Submit all compliance monitoring inspection reports to NJDEP Bureau of Safe Drinking Water.

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions and forward all enforcement records according to NJDEP protocols including Notice of Violation/Offer of Settlement policies.

Report findings of migrant farm camp well samples to USEPA and USDOL at the conclusion of the season.

Resources: Two staff members are trained in facility inspections and zero tolerance policies.

CCHD works closely with the local laboratories to receive up to date sampling results and assure timely sampling for registered facilities. Penalties are deposited into the CCHD EQEF.

A computer and a vehicle are available for travel to and from inspection sites.

Surface Water Pollution Control

Activities: Continue to collect surface water samples at the NJDEP selected ambient surface water stations at a frequency of 5 samples over a 30-day period. Samples will be delivered to the DHSS courier for transport to DHSS lab.

Resources: One staff member is trained in the sampling of designated sites.
CCHD is a DHSS courier site.
Vehicles are available for travel to and from sampling sites.

Activities: Investigate all water pollution complaints received by citizens and the NJDEP. Implement actions to have the source of the complaints corrected.

Maintain files and notify NJDEP of all enforcement actions taken.

Resources: 2 CEHA staff inspectors cover the various municipalities in Cumberland County and respond to water pollution complaints when received.

Vehicles and computers are available for travel and data management.

Activities: Assure that recreational beach monitoring is performed. Perform pollution source investigations.

Each season compile, from all municipalities within the county, the list of recreational bathing areas on lakes or streams, bacteriological sampling results, and the number of beach closings due to water quality impairments.

Work with NJDEP Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring to provide follow-up shoreline surveys when Cumberland County's shellfish waters obtain high bacteriological counts.

Deliverables: At the end of the season, submit recreational beach water monitoring results electronically to the NJDEP.

Supply findings of shoreline surveys to NJDEP.

Resources: CCHD employs a full time REHS trainee trained to perform sanitary surveys of beaches. This inspector also conducts water monitoring and follow-up.

A computer, with Microsoft Excel software and an internet connection is available for electronic submission of sample results.

Safe and Health Communities

Every Cumberland County Community will be free from unacceptable human health and ecological risks due to direct exposure from hazardous substances and other potentially harmful agents. Natural resources will be managed to protect the public from floods, fires and storms.

Local Environmental Issues:

The environmental response to terrorism threats and incidents is an ongoing concern. While a majority of these calls center around public health, it is the environmental first responders that are on the front line. CCHD's subcontract with the City of Vineland allows for access to the Vineland Haz-Mat Team. CCHD has been working closely with Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management, haz-mat and local law enforcement to coordinate and effectively respond to hazardous material calls. We anticipate expanding our preparedness in the upcoming years. The environmental office has two staff attending the County Bioterrorism Task Force

Meetings. The Health Office and/or Environmental Coordinator also sit on the Homeland Security Task Force. The County's State Planner in conjunction with various agencies has updated the County Hazardous Materials Incident Response Annex in the Cumberland County Emergency Management Plan and will be working with the Vineland HazMat Team to update their plan and SOPs to coincide with the County Plan.

CCHD is planning on partnering with the Vineland HazMat team to perform School Chemical Management inspections. All Cumberland County schools with a chemistry lab will be inspected in order to determine safe storage, proper labeling and proper disposal of laboratory chemicals. This will help to assure the safety of the staff and students.

Site Remediation Program

Activities: Assure response to all hazardous materials emergencies referred by NJDEP to assess environmental health threats and advise hazardous materials response units accordingly. Make recommendations to and coordinated these response actions with appropriate federal, state and local agencies. Ensure that personnel assigned to respond to hazmat incidents are properly trained and participating in a medical surveillance program.

Investigate hazardous materials complaints received from citizens and NJDEP. Refer cases requiring remedial action to NJDEP. Follow NJDEP protocols for LEC cases. Respond as best possible to anonymous complaints.

Participate, through a cooperative agreement with NJDEP and Salem County Health Department, in an expanded project to conduct comprehensive inspections of regulated underground storage tanks (USTs) to determine compliance status. Follow the outline of the Cooperative Agreement for inspection, reporting and enforcement in this program.

Deliverables: Prepare reports of all hazardous materials responses. Submit to NJDEP proof of meeting POSHA health and safety training requirements.

Follow NJDEP protocols and guidelines for UST inspections. Submit inspection reports as required to NJDEP.

Resources: CCHD maintains a subcontractor agreement with the City of Vineland Hazardous Materials Team for hazardous materials response. CCHD has 2 inspectors who conduct haz-mat and LEC complaint investigations and clean-up monitoring.

CCHD employs 8 staff members that are trained in first response one of whom is 40 hour H&S certified. CCHD maintains a 24/7 on call system operated through Cumberland County Emergency Management and Communications. On call personnel are equipped with a Nextel phone that is part of the NJDHSS LINKS Communication System.

A vehicle is supplied for response to incidents.

Solid Waste Program

Activities: Continue to investigate all solid waste complaints received from citizens and NJDEP.

Conduct routine compliance monitoring inspections of Class A, B, & C recycling facilities, convenience centers and farmland mulch sites. As requested, conduct inspections of contaminated soil sites.

Continue to monitor solid waste haulers to ensure compliance with the Solid Waste Management Act, and conduct interviews of transporters referred by NJDEP.

Continue compliance monitoring inspection of all other delegated solid waste facilities.

Monitor storage of scrap tires in accordance with the Solid Waste Regulations. Take enforcement actions as required.

Perform recycling investigations and complete general recycling questionnaires at various regulated facilities. Participate in NJDEP mini sweep of convenience stores.

Deliverables: Enforce the State Solid Waste Management Act and initiate enforcement proceedings pursuant to NJDEP guidelines.

Submit all inspections and enforcement actions to NJDEP.

Notify NJDEP of enforcement actions according to policy.

Resources: CCHD maintains a subcontractor agreement with the CCIA for solid waste enforcement. CCIA employs one person assigned to this program. CCHD employs one person assigned, full time, to perform joint inspections and monitor reports for compliance with NJDEP enforcement protocols.

A vehicle, surveillance and photography equipment is available for all field inspections.

Noise Control

Activities: Investigate noise complaints received from citizens and the NJDEP that are under the jurisdiction of the Noise Control Regulations, and if applicable, enforce those regulations to achieve compliance.

As requested by local officials and others provide guidance on noise regulations and noise prevention and abatement.

Deliverables: Maintain records of all complaint investigations.

Maintain current staff certifications for noise control programs.

Resources: CCHD employs 1 REHS who is certified in noise complaint investigation. CCHD maintains a quest sound meter to be used for noise complaint investigations.

An additional staff member will be trained and certified in this program in 2007.

A vehicle is available for response to complaints.

School Chemical Management

Activities: Conduct cost-free site visits, and educate the school districts on best management practices about chemical safety, inventory reduction, and all applicable regulations that apply to generation, transport and the proper disposal of hazardous wastes.

Arrange for school waste chemicals to be inventoried and delivered to Household Hazardous Waste days. Schools with unacceptable HHW materials will be referred to private chemical remediation contractors. Waste will be tracked from origin to destination.

Deliverables: Maintain records of all inspections.
Submit School inspection forms to appropriate NJDEP office.

Resources: CCHD has one inspector trained in 40 hour hazmat
CCHD has one inspector fully trained in solid waste disposal
CCHD has one inspector trained in Right to Know and School IPM
CCHD will work with Vineland HazMat

Open and Effective Government

The department will fulfill its vision and mission and achieve its goals through the involvement of citizens and stakeholders as critical partners and through the commitment to quality principles and methods as a means to continuous improvement of its operations.

Activities: Encourage and develop strategic partnerships with other local, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, environmental commissions, the general public and the business community to address environmental issues and concerns.

Provide education and outreach as well as environmental data to community groups.

Deliverables: CCHD will continue its relationship with Salem County Health Department concerning shared services for a Health Officer, Environmental Coordinator and Underground Storage Tank Program Inspector.

CCHD will continue its agreement with the City of Vineland concerning response to hazardous material incidents.

CCHD will continue its agreement with CCIA for solid waste enforcement and with the Cumberland County Planning Office for GIS services.

CCHD has formed a task group with the CCOEM, local hospitals, County Prosecutor's Office, the local police and Salem County Emergency Agencies to work on terrorism response.

CCHD will continue to work with local water testing laboratories in order to better serve the public and business in the community concerning water testing guidelines and requirements.

CCHD will hold town meetings and work with local governments in communities that have special environmental concerns.

CCHD will continue to provide outreach and education on environmental issues to the effected communities.

CCHD plans on updating its website with interactive environmental information.

CCHD will work with NJDEP Bureau of Marine Monitoring to assist when needed with shoreline surveys.